

SAFETY ON THE LINE

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"Life is either a grand adventure or it is nothing"

- Attributed to Helen Keller

Americans for the first time can now use a single toll-free telephone number to reach a poison control center anywhere in the nation. This is the result of an overdue coordination of the country's 65 separately-run poison centers. Callers dialing the number will be automatically linked to the closest poison center.

**New Central Hotline for
Poison Control Centers**

1-800-222-1222

The nation's first poison center opened in 1953, and subsequent centers have opened on an independent basis. "Until now...nationwide poison prevention education was hindered by the very structure by which poison centers evolved," said Dr. Alan D. Woolf, the president of the American Association of Poison Control Centers. "This country's 65 centers had more than 130 individual and separate telephone numbers," he said. The new number is part of a \$21.2 million federal effort to update poison control centers across the country. Centers field calls on approximately 2.2 million suspected poisonings per year, mostly involving young children. About 75% of all poisonings can be safely handled at home with the help of a poison center aide, though 700 to 800 calls to centers per year end in fatalities, Woolf said.

Half of all calls to poison centers involve preschool-age children, though calls involving adults or elderly persons tend to be more serious. Household cleaners and chemicals make up the bulk of poisonous substances in homes, though perfumes, medications, and spider and animal bites can also lead to poisoning. More information can be found at

http://www.mercola.com/2002/feb/13/poison_centers.htm



KSC Needs your HELP!

Because of recent concerns raised about objects stored near or in front of exits that may restrict or prevent egress from facilities under emergency conditions, ALL KSC & CCAFS EMPLOYEES are requested to inspect their facility egress areas and report to their organization safety office any questionable situations that may fall in this category.



Do you have questions, comments, or an article you would like to submit? Contact Alan at 867-7554, fax number 867-1120, mail code TA-C1 or e-mail him at "Safety on the Line" found in your global address list. Safety on the Line is also on the Web at <http://sotl.ksc.nasa.gov>.